

Claim 2. (Amended) A photothermographic material according to Claim 1, wherein the photothermographic material is produced through a step of coating and drying a coating solution containing a latex dispersed in water as the organic binder.

Claim 3. (Amended) A photothermographic material according to Claim 1, wherein the photothermographic material further comprises a halogen-releasing precursor.

Claim 4. (Amended) A photothermographic material according to Claim 1, wherein the photothermographic material further comprises an ultrahigh contrast agent.

Claim 5. (Amended) A photothermographic material according to Claim 1, wherein the photothermographic material is produced through at least one step selected from a step of coating and drying a coating solution containing microparticles of the reducing agent solid-dispersed in water, a step of coating and drying a coating solution containing microparticles of an ultrahigh contrast agent solid-dispersed in water, and a step of coating and drying a coating solution containing microparticles of a halogen-releasing precursor solid-dispersed in water.

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Claim 16. (Amended) A photothermographic material according to Claim 1, wherein the heat-fusible solvent is in an amount of 5-500 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the binder.

Claim 17. (Amended) A photothermographic material according to Claim 16, wherein the heat-fusible solvent is in an amount of 10-300 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the binder.

Claim 18. (Amended) A photothermographic material according to Claim 1, wherein the heat-fusible solvent is in an image forming layer.

Please add the following new claim:

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Claim 21. (New) A photothermographic material according to Claim 1, wherein the heat-fusible solvent is present in at least one of a protective layer, an undercoat layer and an intermediate layer.